

Message Text

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(C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T A G S)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN DEFENSE SPENDING

1. SUMMARY. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLE REFLECTING INDECISION AND CHANGING VIEWS IN CANADIAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT REGARDING WHAT AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE PURCHASED FOR CANADIAN MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

2. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL ON MARCH 28 PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE STORY ENTITLED "MORE DEFENCE SPENDING IN CANADA, TOP-LINE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT IN OTTAWA'S REVISED PLANS - POSSIBLE SHOT IN THE ARM FOR CANADAIR, DE HAVILLAND." ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MAY DRASTICALLY CHANGE PLANS TO SPEND NEARLY \$1 BILLION ON LONG-RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT.

3. APPARENTLY NEW PROPOSALS ARE BEING STUDIED "THAT WOULD FEED FUNDS INTO CANADA'S AVIATION INDUSTRY INSTEAD OF US COMPANIES...(THIS) WOULD ALSO SAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE PURCHASE OF A TOP-LINE SOPHISTICATED JET FIGHTER." ONE OF POSSIBLE PLANS WOULD BE TO HAVE
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CANADA REJECT LOCKHEED ORION AND BOEING 707 AS PATROL

AIRCRAFT AND INSTEAD HAVE EXISTING ARGUS AIRCRAFT REFURBISHED FOR ANTI-SUBMARINE DUTIES AT MONTEAL'S CANADAIR PLANT. SIX TO 12 DHC-7 AIRCRAFT WOULD BE PURCHASED FROM DE HAVILLAND OF CANADA FOR FISHERIES PATROL WORK AND FOUR 707'S WOULD BE PURCHASED FOR ARCTIC PATROL DUTIES.

4. ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION IS PURCHASE OF "A FEW ANTI-SUBMARINE AIRCRAFT FROM THE BRITISH BECAUSE THEY MAY HAVE A SURPLUS... AT BARGAIN PRICES."

5. ARTICLE REPORTS CRITICISM OF THESE PROPOSALS AND STATES THAT THE SITUATION HAS REKINDLED POLITICAL BATTLING FOR FUNDS. DEFENCE MINISTER RICHARDSON IS "PASSIONATELY CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR A NEW FIGHTER... THE FOUR TYPES OF AIRCRAFT LOOKED ON WITH MOST FAVOR CURRENTLY ARE THE MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS F-15, THE GRUMMAN F-14 SWING-WING FIGHTER THE NORTHROP F-17 AND THE BRITISH-GERMAN-ITALIAN ... AIRCRAFT..."

6. ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE DIFFERENT FIGHTERS AND THEN QUOTES RICHARDSON AS SAYING THAT ACQUISITION OF A FIGHTER IS IN SECOND PLACE ON THE DEFENSE EQUIPMENT PRIORITY LIST. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY RESTATING VARIOUS ISSUES INVOLVED IN CURRENT DEFENSE REVIEW AND PROBLEMS OF REACHING DECISIONS ON DEFENSE BUDGET.

7. COMMENT. AS ARTICLE REFLECTS, CANADA'S DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT IS STILL UNDECIDED ON HOW TO SPEND LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE TO IT. OBVIOUSLY, CANADIAN AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS HAVE ALSO MADE THEIR VOICES HEARD AND IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF SUCH CONSIDERATIONS PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN FINAL DECISION.
PORTER

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